HAROLD WEISBERG
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

12/19/93

Mr. Tom Wicker
Austin Hill Farm
Rochester, VT 05767

Dear Mr. Wicker,

In writing you September 10 I said your trust had been imposed upon, or at least I so believed, in your glowing endorsement of Gerald Posner's Case Closed. I said also that it is the most dishonest book I have ever read. And I suggested that if you doubted that or the conclusory statements that followed a simple test would be for you to ask Random House for the traditional peer reviews in controversial non-fiction. As I indicated, because to the degree possible for me I am trying to use the time that remains to me to perfecting the histroical record in the JFK assassination, I was writing.

Before writing you or even before reading the book, on the basis of what I had been told about what he writes about me in it, without any source indication in either the text or the notes, I wrote ~~him~~ Posner and asked for those sources. I had not gotten the book because when he spent three days here, with free and unsupervised access to all I have and to unsupervised access to our copier, he promised me one of the first of his books when they were available. He did not send me a book and he did not respond to my questions, chiefly about those alleged sources but also about something I know very well I never said or believed.

I finished the rather lengthy and I believe detailed book on Posner's book in which I also use it as a symbol. However, and you know what my typing is, there has been a delay in the retyping. I therefore cannot send you, as I would prefer to do, a copy of it. I did begin it with quotations from the dust-jacket blurbs, including yours. I enclose a xerox of them for your convenience. Yours is the bottom on on ~~ch~~ the back cover. I have highlighted what I hope you will address in what you are quoted as saying. I ask also the basis for your making those statements and whether you made any effort to check them or anything at all in the book. Or, as I am still inclined to believe, you wrote what you wrote on the basis of trust without any independent checking. At the same time, if you are at all interested in what he said about me (and you could have checked by asking me) I'll respond as fully as you may like.

Inherent in what you wrote is the assumption that all books critical of what I regard as the official assassination mythology are books of conspiracy theories. You read my first book in manuscript and you may not have any recollection of it now after 28 years, but if you do recall it you will not recall any theorizing of any kind it in. There is none in any of my books. They are almost entirely based on the official evidence. This includes about 150,000 pages of records, mostly of the FBI, that I got from a dozen FOIA lawsuits. Some were precedental and one led to the 1974 amending of the investigatory files

exemption that opened FBI,CIA and similar files to FOIA access. With unrestricted access to all of that documentation, Posner spent no time at all in those files of which I know. He was here only three days. He spent all or most of that time in what I call my "subject" file. That is a file of duplicates of records I made, preserving my originals as I received them for archival deposit. I made them mostly for the use of others but they are anything but inclusive. They do include a fair selection of the FBI's nasty records about me of which all are in varying degrees prejudiced and some are outright lies. He may have copied what he liked from that file but he did not ask me about any of what he wrote about me or based on them.

You say that "Case Closed is a deliberate, detailed, thoroughly documented" book whose"most important contribution may be Posner's thorough, dispassionate...account of the miserable life of Lee Harvey Oswald" and that "After his book, the case of JFK is indeed closed."

I note that in this you make no reference to the official facts of the crime itself or to any other accounting of them. So I ask how can that case be "indeed closed" without any reference to the facts of the crime, those officially stated to be facts or those that in Posner's book are so represented?

In general, I would like to know the basis for your saying what I quote above, what checking you did to ascertain whether he was truthful or whether he lied in any of what you did comment on, Oswald's life. In particular, did you consult what the Commission and its counsel said about that very same thing, Posner's basis for all of that, what the shrink Hartogs actually said about the bad boy Oswald was?

I'll be writing the others who provided those prepublication endorsements, too. I do hope that you and the others will respond because I have quoted those endorsements and would prefer not to have to add to the book that any or all declined to respond.

For your information, and you can easily check this for yourself or I'll help you, using the Random House unabridged dictionary definition I refer to him as a plagiarist. You will in time find this fully documented, He does use the work of others as his own work, so effectively that the Philadelphia Inquirer commended him for having gone to all that trouble and expense.

I would also like to know who asked you for the endorsement and why you gave it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg